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JOUJUU SENJIN!! MUSHIBUGYO CHAPTER 38

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BATTLE 38
HOW TO GO ABOUT ONE'S BUSINESS

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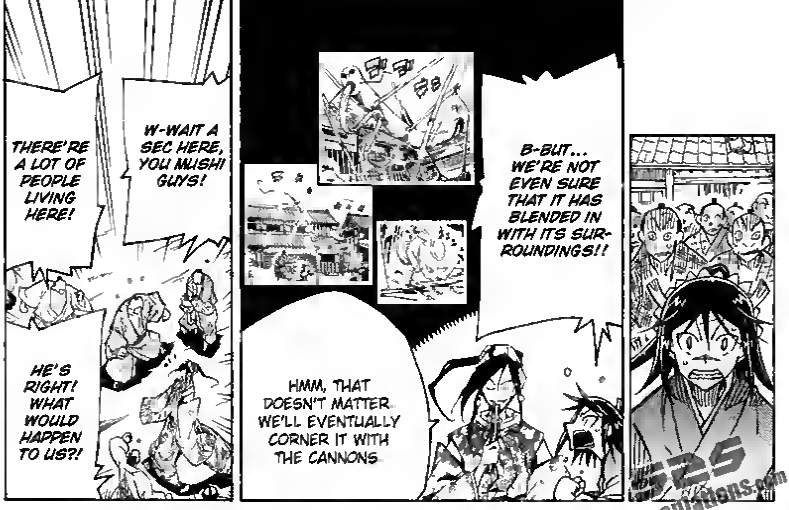
"SHRINE PATROL", READY YOUR CANNONS!!
WE'LL MOW DOWN THIS WHOLE AREA AND THE MUSHI WITH IT!
WHAT?!
JUST TO EXTERMINATE ONE MUSHI, YOU'RE GOING TO DESTROY THIS WHOLE PLACE?
ARE YOU REALLY SERIOUS, SHIRASAKAKI-DONO?!
SO WHY NOT TAKE OUT THE BUILDINGS AS WELL AS THE MUSHI?
IT'S THE FASTEST AND SUREST WAY TO KILL IT.
WE'RE DEALING WITH A MUSHI THAT CAN MERGE WITH THE SURROUNDING BUILDINGS,
OF COURSE.


THERE'RE A LOT OF PEOPLE LIVING HERE!
W-WAIT A SEC HERE, YOU MUSHI GUYS!
HE'S RIGHT! WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO US?!
HMM, THAT DOESN'T MATTER. WE'LL EVENTUALLY CORNER IT WITH THE CANNONS
B-BUT... WE'RE NOT EVEN SURE THAT IT HAS BLENDED IN WITH IT'S SURROUNDINGS!!

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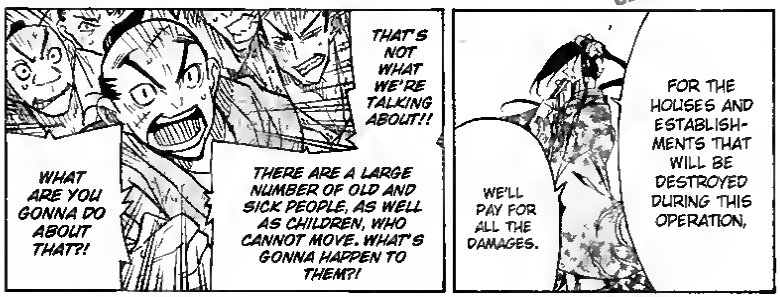
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT THAT?!
THERE ARE A LARGE NUMBER OF OLD AND SICK PEOPLE, AS WELL AS CHILDREN, WHO CANNOT MOVE. WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO THEM?!
THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT!!
WE'LL PAY FOR ALL THE DAMAGES.
FOR THE HOUSES AND ESTABLISHMENTS THAT WILL BE DESTROYED DURING THIS OPERATION,

THAT ...
YOU CAN'T ...!!
THE CORNERED MUSHI WILL UNDOUBTEDLY FLEE TOWARD HERE!!
NOW MOVE!!
YESSIR!!
PLEASE RECONSIDER!!
4
PLEASE .
PLEASE
PLEASE, ANYTHING BUT THAT! I BEG OF YOU!!
DON'T DO IT...

THE WORK OF THE MUSHIBUGYO IS TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE FROM THE MUSHI,
NOT TO HARM THE VERY PEOPLE WE'RE TRYING TO PROTECT!
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HIC.
OI, OI, YOU BASTARDS... WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
THIS IS A DIRTY LAWLESS PLACE AS IT IS, BUT
IT'S THE PLACE THAT MY FAVOURITE SAKE BAR IS, YOU KNOW?

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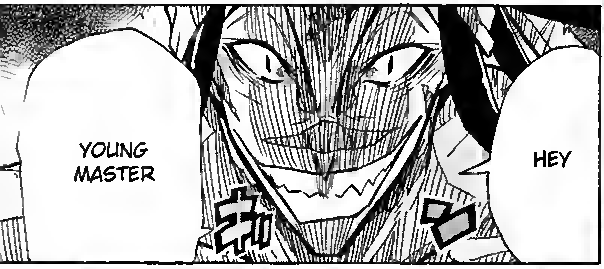
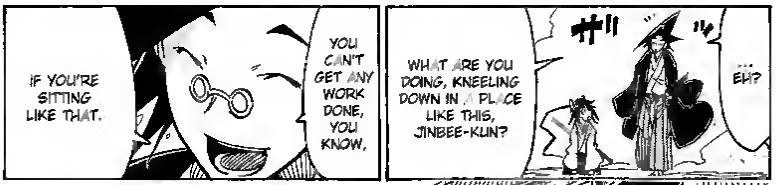


T/N: SEPPUKU IS TO REDEEM ONE'S HONOR-MORE IMPORTANT THAN LIFE-AND IS TAKEN AWAY FROM THE VILEST OF CRIMINALS TO TARNISH THEIR FAMILY'S REPUTATION

JUST CALM DOWN A LITTLE AND TALK THINGS THROUGH.
OH, COME NOW, YOU TWO.

!
!


IF YOU'RE SITTING LIKE THAT.
YOU CAN'T GET ANY WORK DONE, YOU KNOW.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, KNEELING DOWN IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, JINBEE-KUN?
...EH?

...WHAT'S THIS, MATSUNO-HARA?

SHIRASAKAI-DONO, IF YOU WOULD
PLEASE HOLD ON TO THAT PLAN JUST FOR A WHILE.
A LONG TIME HAS PASSED SINCE THE ATTACK HAPPENED AND THE MUSHI DISAPPEARED, HAS IT NOT?
IT COULD EVEN BE OUTSIDE OF THE CITY AS WE SPEAK.
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HOWEVER, I WONDER IF THE SHOGUN WOULD BE PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS.
THAT'S VERY TRUE!
WE'D KNOW FOR SURE IF WE WERE TO CLEAR OUT THIS WHOLE PLACE.
...HMPH.

THE TOKUGAWA MAGISTRATE IS DEALING WITH A LOT OF DIFFERENT PROBLEMS.
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!
AS OF NOW,
IT'S ES-SENTIALLY LIKE THIS...
YOU SEE,
?
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

AH, BUT OF COURSE, YOUR PLAN IS A GOOD ONE.
DON'T YOU THINK THAT, EVEN WITH THE LIMITED ABILITY WE HAVE, THE LEAST WE COULD DO FOR OUR COUNTRY WOULD BE TO BE A LITTLE THRIFTIER?
YOSHIMUNE-SAMA IS OVERLOOKING THE RENEWAL OF THE COUNTRY'S FINANCIAL SYSTEM, WHICH IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY.

ENOUGH!
AH, THAT'S NOT TO SAY THAT YOUR PLAN IS A BUST AT ALL
GOING A BIT OVERBOARD, SINCE THE RATIO OF BENEFIT TO COST WOULD BE...
HOWEVER.. TO LEVEL OUT A 4KM RADIUS JUST TO GET ONE MUSHI IS

BUT OF COURSE!
YOU'RE QUITE THE CRAFTY ONE, MATSUNOHARA
TO USE THE FINANCIAL REFORM AS YOUR SHIELD
SO,
WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE WE DO INSTEAD?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, KOTORI-SAN!!
KAKA! KOTORI-CHAN, YOU REALLY GOT THAT NOBLE BRAT GOOD!
WE'LL MOW DOWN THIS WHOLE PLACE NO MATTER WHAT!
SO BE IT! HOWEVER, IN HALF AN HOUR,
I ACCEPT THOSE TERMS, SHIRASAKI-DONO!
SO YOU'RE GOING AGAINST US, THE "SHRINE PATROL", IN A COMPETITION
HMM, INTERESTING.

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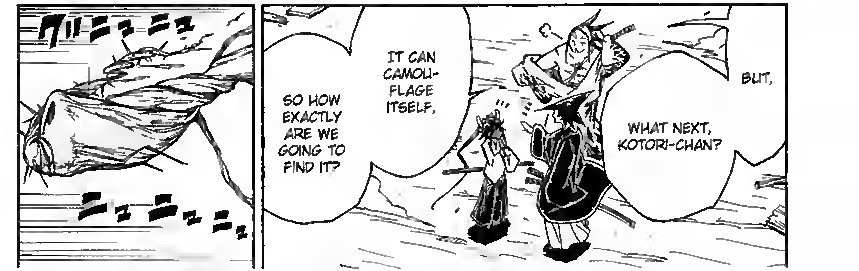
I SHOULD BE THE ONE SAYING THANKS.
!
THAT'S NOT QUITE RIGHT JINBEE-KUN
IT'S ONLY BECAUSE YOU STOOD FIRM DESPITE BEING UNDER THE "SHRINE PATROL" AND THE "NOBILITY PATROL"
THAT WE WERE ABLE TO HAVE THIS CHANCE TO REDEEM OURSELVES AS THE "CAPITAL PATROL"!

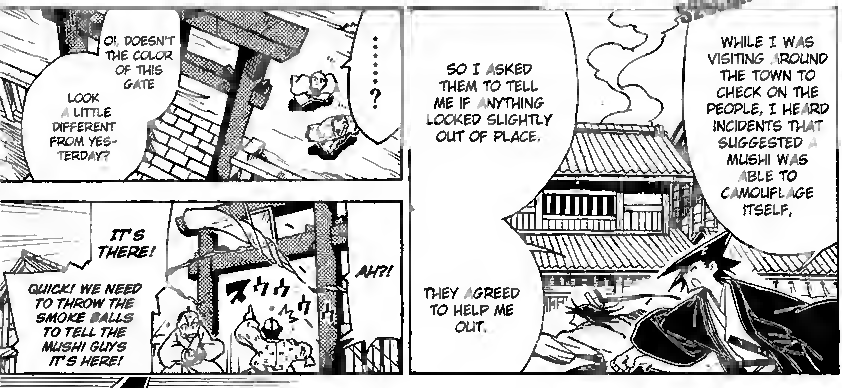

SO HOW EXACTLY ARE WE GOING TO FIND IT?
IT CAN CAMOU-FLAGE ITSELF,
BUT,
WHAT NEXT, KOTORI-CHAN?

STICK INSECT
BY THE WAY, THE JAPANESE NAME FOR THE STICK INSECT, NANAFUSHI, REFERS TO THE FACT THAT IT LOOKS AS IF IT IS COMPRISED OF SEVEN (NANA) STICKS.
THERE ARE ESSENTIALLY TWO PURPOSES OF CAMOUFLAGE: TO HIDE OR TO AMBUSH. OF THE TWO, THE STICK INSECT FALLS INTO THE LATTER CATEGORY. MIMICKING THE TWIGS THEY LATCH ONTO TO CONFUSE EYES.
THAT BIT
IS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF.
I'VE SENT SOMEONE OUT TO FIND IT ALREADY.
HIBACHI-DONO?!
KOTORI-SAN!
EH?!
YOU'RE AS FAST AS ALWAYS.
I THINK I'VE FOUND IT ALREADY.
WHAT'S THAT?!
OI!!
13

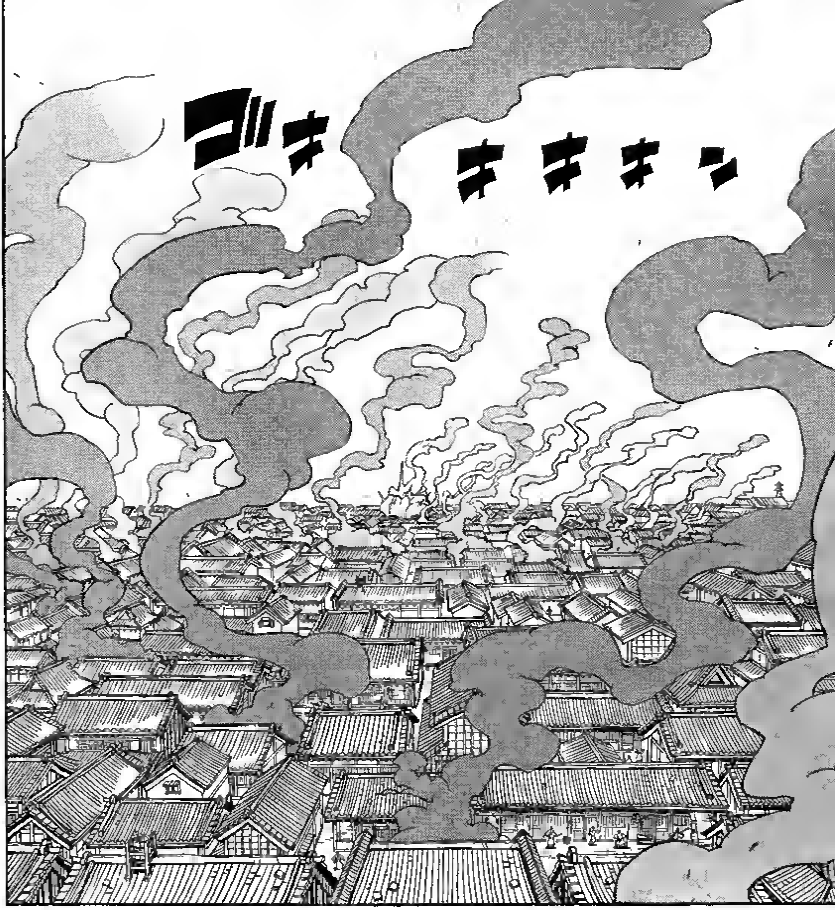
WHA?!
WHAT'S THAT WEIRD LOOKING RED SMOKE OVER THERE?!
!!?
I MADE THEM WHEN I WAS BORED AND FREE
THEY'RE SMOKE BOMBS
SORRY IF THEY'RE A WEIRD COLOR.

EX-PLAIN!!
WAIT, MATSU-NOHARA! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
!!?
WHA...
WHAT IN THE WORLD?!
THE MUSHI SHOULD BE OVER THERE
LET'S GO!
BEHIND THE SMOKE!

OH, IT'S REALLY NOTHING.
I JUST
GOT A BIT OF HELP FROM THE TOWNS-PEOPLE.
.....!?
THE TOWNS-PEO-PLE...?


WHILE I WAS VISITING AROUND THE TOWN TO CHECK ON THE PEOPLE, I HEARD INCIDENTS THAT SUGGESTED A MUSHI WAS ABLE TO CAMOUFLAGE ITSELF.
SO I ASKED THEM TO TELL ME IF ANYTHING LOOKED SLIGHTLY OUT OF PLACE.
THEY AGREED TO HELP ME OUT.
.....?
O! DOESN'T THE COLOR OF THIS GATE LOOK A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM YES-TERDAY?
AH?!
IT'S THERE!
QUICK! WE NEED TO THROW THE SMOKE BALLS TO TELL THE MUSHI GUYS IT'S HERE!

HUH?!
THE TILES OF MY ROW HOUSE WERE NEVER THIS CLEAN!!
MY FENCE WAS NEVER THIS COLOR! DON'T UNDER-ESTI-MATE ME!
I'M NOT FOOLED BY THIS!!
THAT... KIND OF THING...
FUFU, SHIRASAKAKI-DONO, YOU'VE UNDER-ESTIMATED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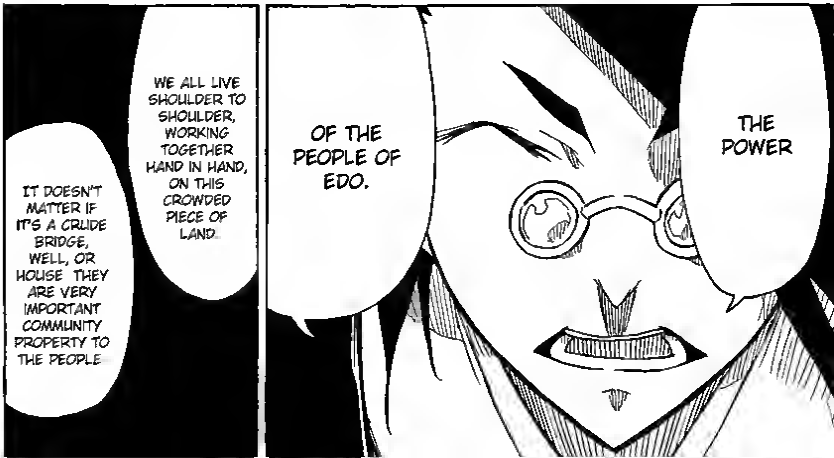
THE POWER
OF THE PEOPLE OF EDO.
WE ALL LIVE SHOULDER TO SHOULDER, WORKING TOGETHER HAND IN HAND, ON THIS CROWDED PIECE OF LAND.
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S A CRUDE BRIDGE, WELL, OR HOUSE THEY ARE VERY IMPORTANT COMMUNITY PROPERTY TO THE PEOPLE

BUT ABOVE ALL, THE FACT THAT ALL THESE PEOPLE NOTICE THE SLIGHTEST CHANGES THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN OVERLOOKED BY OTHER PEOPLE
SHOWS JUST HOW MUCH THEY LOVE THE CITY ITSELF
IF IT'S JUST FOR EFFICIENCY'S SAKE, THEN YOU COULD JUST DESTROY AND THEN REBUILD.
HOWEVER, THAT CANNOT REPLACE THE SENSE OF SOLIDARITY FORMED BY THOSE FAMILIAR PLACES!!
THE SMOKE ENDS HERE!!
!!?
I...
I WON'T LET YOU RUN AWAY!
THAT'S ICHI-NOTANI-DONO?!
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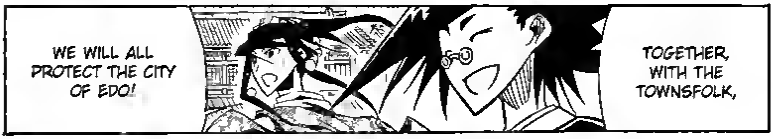
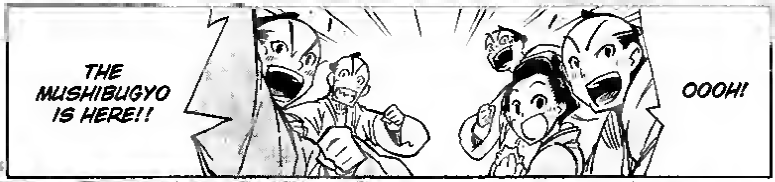
IT'S SHOWTIME!!
KAKA,


WE WILL ALL PROTECT THE CITY OF EDO!
TOGETHER, WITH THE TOWNSFOLK,


THE MUSHIBUGYO IS HERE!!
OOOH!

DO THINGS!!
THAT IS THE WAY THAT THE "CAPITAL PATROL"
JYOUJUU SENJIN!!!